

July 30, 1992

Dear Mom,

Thanks for the money. I will use it to finance a subversive newsletter.

Actually, I've started writing an amendment to the State Constitution that will replace the current legislative system with my "electronic democracy" - a system in which we will be able to vote directly or through a somewhat freely-chosen representative. When I get it done, I'll ask the whole family to help get petition signatures.

Just before Perot dropped out of the race, I sent him a letter reminding him of my 1984 letter to him in which I suggested that EDS get involved in designing a more democratic system for the U.S. I didn't know in 1984 that he had been talking about his "electronic town hall" as early as 1969. In my new letter, I presented my latest design for "electronic democracy".

Carol and Doug and Dawn are taking off tomorrow for Maine to visit Carol's sister. They will be gone about a week. The trip was arranged to coincide with my hiking trip with Laura. I'm not taking any time off, but I might go to the dunes this weekend and do some hiking by myself.

We have live-trapped 7 woodchucks so far this summer in our back yard. They are cute, but they dig holes and eat the petunias. I have been relocating them about a mile away, across Waverly Road, in a large undeveloped area, but we are beginning to suspect that they are finding their way back. We thought there was a mom and a pop and 3 kids, so we were surprised when numbers 6 and 7 showed up. The trap was loaned to us by one of Dayna's boyfriends, and I sometimes have trouble getting it to shut properly. I use carrots for bait, and I wish I had a picture of the woodchuck who, a few days ago, escaped when the trap didn't shut properly and then sat up on his hind legs next to the trap eating his carrot.

I have enjoyed working in the yard this summer, with the grass growing so well. I actually don't mind mowing. I've got a mulching mower that is self-propelled and starts with the second pull.

The redbuds are thriving.

We are having our 3 bedrooms re-carpeted - each a different color - and we are going to put a hardwood floor in the dining room and kitchen. That will happen sometime within the next 3 weeks. Last weekend our new oak bedroom furniture was delivered.

Carol hopes to take a couple courses at MSU this fall. She wants to get a bachelor's degree in social work and then go on for her Master's. Right now she's trying figure out what courses to take

and arrange with her boss to get time off to attend classes. The classes are not offered at night. She finds that she enjoys working Tuesday nights at the Abused Women's Shelter much more than her day job.

Dayna is going to move to California next month, so we will have the house to ourselves for a while. She went out there for a friend's wedding earlier this summer and met some people who are going to get her a job and a place to stay. She plans to stay there 3 months, and then come back and start at Ferris winter term. I think she plans to study something in hospital administration.

Carol and I took a few days off earlier this month and went up to the Sleeping Bear Dunes. We hiked out to the "Bear" - the high point where all the old dead trees are - and there were hanggliders flying up and down the dune shore. They can't launch from that part of the dunes, so they apparently flew up from a few miles south. We got some pictures of them. We canoed the Crystal River at Glen Arbor, went up to Lelanau State Park (not very interesting), then went around Grand Traverse Bay to East Jordan and canoed our favorite river, the Jordan. It is pretty and fast and easy. We also discovered and drove through a huge wilderness area through which the unnavigable upper reaches of the Jordan river flows. We drove through it after seeing it from an overlook up on a hill. On another day, we drove up to Wilderness State Park, which is west of Mackinaw City. It seemed rather undeveloped and inaccessible. I think you have to be willing to do a lot of hiking to see anything interesting.

Come and see us. In about 2 weeks we'll have our new carpet and hardwood floor and plenty of extra beds (two twins, a queen and two sofas). We can take a tour of the restored State Capitol Building.

Love,
Steve